

DZCP: The Right Choice to Contain COVID-19

Voice of the World

By Staff Reporters

The highly contagious Omicron variant of COVID-19 is still sweeping across most parts of the world, but some countries like the U.S., UK, and Japan have already announced the lifting of restrictions against COVID-19.

Unlike those countries that have eased restrictions, China has continued its various measures to adopt a "dynamic zero-clearing policy (DZCP)," on fighting against the pandemic. China will continue to stick with the policy of scientific accuracy and dynamic zero clearing, and curb the spread of the pandemic as soon as possible, President Xi Jinping stressed in a meeting in mid-March.

DZCP puts people first
After Omicron BA.2 subvariant was detected in China, the number of confirmed cases increased quickly. Some Western observers started to criticize the DZCP once again, putting much emphasis on the damage it could do to the economy. They predicted that the world economy could be seriously affected if lockdown continued.

"The aggressive DZCP will have a prolonged impact on global supply chains and [it] might overshadow the economic growth prospects for China," said GlobalData, a leading data and analytics company.



In a community of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, volunteers are preparing to deliver supplies to quarantined residents. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

However, based on the Chinese perspective, people's survival will always take priority when compared to economic benefits. The basic principle of Chinese leaders governing the country during the pandemic is based on "putting people and life at the forefront."

"China's COVID lockdowns have affected domestic consumption more than manufacturing or global supply chains, but according to my friends in China, the Chinese government has put public health over economic growth. And that is actually being beneficial," Andy Rothman of the Matthews Asia Fund told CNBC.

Should China maintain DZCP?

The current pandemic wave is characterized by a large number and high proportion of asymptomatic infections, in which many infected people do not develop any symptoms. This makes it even more difficult to identify the risk and size of the outbreak.

When Omicron BA.2 subvariant was detected, the number of confirmed cases in China increased quickly, despite

being still very low compared with countries elsewhere in the world.

So, does this mean that China should give up its DZCP? From China's perspective, the answer is clearly no. Let's see what is happening in those countries that have lifted their restrictions.

According to UK Coronavirus Dashboard on March 25, BA.2 COVID-19 patients now account for 85 percent of new infections, increasing 20 percent week by week. More severely, about a 17 percent increase was recorded in the number of people who died within 28 days of testing positive for COVID-19.

NBC News reported that infectious disease experts remain firm in their prediction that the BA.2 transmission is estimated to be 30 percent higher in the U.S. Although the subvariant may not cause severe illness or overwhelm hospital resources like earlier variants, the nature of further illness it may cause is still uncertain.

Ongoing improvement of COVID strategy

With restrictions continuing, China

will continue to adopt methods such as developing COVID drugs and fast nucleic acid testing to make prevention and control efforts more effective.

About furthering policy improvement, worldwide experts like Jerome H. Kim, director-general of the International Vaccine Institute, told *Barron's*, "Lockdowns, mass testing, and social distancing have been scientifically proven to work."

Kim also cautioned that China should not relax policies too much. "If China begins to loosen restrictions now, it will face a surge in infections. The questions are: loosen what? Are the vulnerable protected? And are they prepared for the impact on the health care system?" he told *Barron's*.

Zhang Wenhong, a renowned Chinese infectious disease expert believes that sustaining normal life is as essential as implementing the DZCP. He wrote on Weibo, "We need to take advantage of the precious opportunity brought by DZCP to prepare a more complete, intelligent and sustainable COVID strategy."

nology, the more our security and financial health becomes vulnerable. The abuses of science and technology have gained so much traction, that investment guru Warren Buffett describes cybercrimes as the number one problem facing humanity, poses real risks.

Cybersecurity ventures have predicted that global damage incurred as a result of cybercrime would cost up to 10.5 trillion USD annually by 2025. The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), in partnership with McAfee, concludes that nearly one percent of global GDP, close to 600 billion USD, is lost to cybercrime annually.

As a global leader in science and technology, China constantly demonstrates its commitment to ensuring a safer Internet for the world. In delivering on its commitment, China has recently released a set of guidelines to strengthen the governance of ethics in science and technology, given the rapid progress of the country's sci-tech innovation and the growing challenges facing ethics in this field.

The guidelines have reflected China's humanity first policy, as the document clarified the ethical principles in science and technology, saying that scientific activities should serve the well-being of humanity, respect people's right to live, adhere to

fairness and justice, control risks in an appropriate way, and maintain openness and transparency.

Experts in the field believe that China has come up with such guidelines to get to the core of immoral practices, by declaring that ethics compliance should be emphasized throughout the process of scientific research and technological development.

The guidelines have outlined the silver lining for children and youth by recommending that authorities should encourage colleges and universities, scientific research institutions, medical institutions, social groups, and enterprises to improve the monitoring and early warning mechanism for ethical risks, and follow-up development in emerging sci-tech fields.

It is believed by observers that the guidelines will rein in the immoral uses of science and technology, because China is a country that has established the rule of law. Experts are also optimistic that the guidelines have clarified that the governance of science and technology should be based on laws and regulations, and should suit the conditions of the country and be free from external influence.

The guidelines have also brought good news to many developing countries by emphasizing further opening up

and cooperation with the world. As a Bangladeshi journalist, I know that the incumbent government of my country has long been trying to realize its dream of Digital Bangladesh, for which there is no alternative to modern science and technologies.

Meanwhile, the current world order is more focused on good governance. According to the United Nations, good governance is measured by the eight factors of participation, rule of law, transparency, responsiveness, consensus oriented, equity, and inclusiveness. Most of these factors are interlinked with the uses of science and technology. More participation, transparency, responsiveness, and inclusiveness is possible by converting government services to digital. The guidelines themselves have also underscored the adherence to fairness and justice, and maintain openness and transparency.

Many nations like Bangladesh can benefit from, and forge ahead with, bilateral and multilateral cooperation with China in ethics education in science and technology, the institutionalization of ethical training programs, and the popularization of ethical codes among their respective people.

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Global Observation

Biomilitary Activities: Why is the U.S. Silent?

By QI Liming

Recently, U.S. bio-military cooperation projects in Ukraine have triggered strong concern from the international community. Russian Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Protection Troops commander Igor Kirillov, is quoted in the Russian News Agency Tass saying that Ukrainian Defense Ministry laboratories in Kiev, Odessa, Lvov and Kharkov received 32 million USD funding from the U.S.

Many countries have called on the U.S. to take a responsible position and fully clarify its biological military activities in Ukraine to the world. In order to safeguard the common security of humankind, the U.S. should stop its exclusive blocking of the establishment on the verification mechanism of the *Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)*.

U.S. introspection needed

According to the documents submitted by the U.S. to the Conference of States Parties to the BWC at the end of 2021, it has 26 laboratories and other cooperative facilities in Ukraine.

According to the *Daily Mail*, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) said in a fact sheet on March 11 that since 2005, it has spent 200 million USD in Ukraine, supporting 46 Ukrainian laboratories, health facilities and diagnostic sites.

Victoria Nuland, U.S. under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, confirmed during the senate hearing on March 8, that Ukraine has "biological research facilities," when asked if Ukraine has bioweapons. She also said the U.S. is working with Ukraine to prevent Russia from getting "those research materials."

The Director of National Intelligence, Avril Haines, told the Senate Intelligence Committee that Ukraine "operated a little over a dozen" biolabs for bio-defense and public health response. The U.S. has, at least in the past, "provided assistance" to the labs "in the context of biosafety, which is something we have done with a variety of different countries," she added.

However, the U.S. declared that it does not operate laboratories in Ukraine, but occasionally sent "helpers" to Ukraine so as to ensure the safety of the laboratories. Yet according to the agreement signed in 2005 between the U.S. and Ukraine, representatives from DoD have the right to participate in all relevant activities conducted by Ukraine facilities, and all dangerous viruses in Ukraine must be stored in these laboratories and should be provided to the U.S. as required. In addition, Ukraine was not authorized to disclose what the U.S. labeled as "sensitive information."

More truth to be unveiled

In nearly 30 years, the number of

biosafety level 4 laboratories on U.S. soil increased by 750 percent, accompanied by an increasing risk of virus leakage. Because of protests from within, the U.S. chose to establish laboratories beyond its borders. In past decades, the U.S. has built a number of biological laboratories in Ukraine, South Korea, Kazakhstan and Georgia.

In the name of "cooperation to reduce biosecurity risks" and "strengthening global public health," the U.S. has carried out biological cooperation projects in more than 30 countries and controls hundreds of biological laboratories.

Sheradil Baktygulov, a Kyrgyz independent political analyst based in Bishkek said that, "The formal explanations of the U.S. authorities on the activities of more than 300 U.S. biolabs around the world do not match the real situation on the ground. The truth is much darker, as has been shown by many independent investigations since 2018."

"There have been numerous mysterious outbreaks of human illnesses and losses of livestock in Georgia, Ukraine and Russian provinces bordering these countries since 2007. Moreover, the U.S. is keeping its bioweapons in violation of international treaties," he said.

Voices from the international community

Korkut Ulucan, a Turkish specialist in medical biology and genetics, said such laboratories must be accessible to international scientific committees, and their activities need to be audited by multiple independent organizations.

"To prevent a leak, these laboratories should be gradually evacuated with the utmost care, under high-level security conditions and the supervision of a committee of scientists, and they must be inactivated," said Ulucan, also a lecturer at the Uskudar University.

A commentary in *Turkish newspaper, Cumhuriyet* said the information exposed by Russia left no place for the chicanery of American misdeeds. The obtained information confirmed that the biological laboratories set up by the U.S. were trying to develop biological weapons. However, these dangerous messages to the world were predictably ignored by the Western media.

Indian newspaper, *The Daily Telegraph* believed that the international community's security concerns over the Ukrainian biological laboratory cannot be ignored. The U.S. claims that pathogens in laboratories are not part of biological weapons. However, unlike nuclear tests, the materials used in biological weapons tests are indistinguishable from normal scientific materials and therefore much easier to hide. In view of the growing threat of biological weapons, early measures must be taken to address it, said *The Daily Telegraph*.

Sci-tech Guidelines Prove China's Commitment to a Safer World

Opinion

By Musundali Bhuiyan

While the value of modern science and technology is indisputable, the abuse of this essential part of human development is unfortunately on the rise across the world. People often fall prey to cybercrimes, ranging from financial fraud, human trafficking and child pornography, to intellectual property, stolen identities, and privacy violation. Various media have reported that during the ongoing devastating pandemic, cybercrimes have witnessed a rise of more than 600 percent.

The more we use science and tech-

Ancient Art Meets Cyberpunk

Hi! Tech

By QI Liming

In the space dimension of technological innovation, it would be an amazing experience to meander through the famous painting—*A Thousand Li of Rivers and Mountains*.

With the lingering sound of ancient rhyme, the poetic dance drama *Only This Green*, is based on this painting.

Using a unique combination of

technology and art, the performance uses lasers, robotics, multimedia imagery, and even Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, presenting rich and diversified art forms.

Technology is a tool to realize the wildest imagination and even create new spatial dimensions. How art leads science and technology drives art, is answered in the presentation of *Only This Green*.

Elegant and beautiful Chinese aesthetics create a dream spanning thousands of years, activating the traditional

and cultural genes in the hearts of the audience. A floral kingdom of classical style bursts into bloom with modern technologies, such as an innovative stage design.

Armed with modern technologies, the original elegance of *Only This Green* takes on a cyberpunk flavor. Using a multi-layer turntable as a base and the mechanical frame of a circular arc in the air, the crew built an "inner bladder" on the basis of the stage with the picture frame, creating a magnificent new choreography effect. The top of the stage is designed to rotate three times while the ground stage is able to rotate four times. In addition, the stage may move up, down, left and right as immersing in the painting.



Scientists look at cultures in petri dishes under an inverted microscope in the lab. (PHOTO: VCG)



Only This Green performed at 2022 Spring Festival Gala. (PHOTO: SCREENSHOT FROM CCTV)